

March 22, 1978

SENATOR MARVEL: So I was warning the membership ahead of time that this may create some problems. Also, if I might just take a moment, you have got about eight different categories. Of that \$4 million, \$250,000 is salaries, about a million dollars is attached to services, legislative services directly, Clerk's office amounts to about \$860,000, the research arm....

SENATOR COPE: That isn't the point. I am just wondering why that we can't budget more closer and have better public relations with the public. That is my question. Now is the budget this year based on a year ago or two years ago, that is, on the 90 day session, the upcoming budget, or is it based on this past one?

SENATOR MARVEL: The budget that we are working on now is for the 90 day session which is less than the one that we are in now which is the 60 day session. So I am saying to you, first of all, that the budgeting is much tighter. I know this from experience and so we are doing, the only reason I read those figures was to indicate large hunks of money assigned to specific areas which might help explain to the average individual where that money goes.

SENATOR COPE: But we still come out with a 29% overbudget for this past year, correct?

SENATOR MARVEL: Well, I think what the Auditor was indicating was that that was generally the average but I would say to you that as of a year ago, yes, there was that return.

SENATOR COPE: I am just looking at it from the public's viewpoint that to say that we have around a \$3 million budget rather than a four certainly looks a lot better and that is actually what it turned out last year. We really operated on about \$3 million, is that correct?

SENATOR MARVEL: Whatever 29%...that is about right.

SENATOR COPE: It would be \$2,840,000.

SENATOR MARVEL: Yes, that is about right. That is true.

SENATOR COPE: And I am just wondering and suggesting maybe we would have better public relations if we had a more realistic budget instead of that large of a, I don't like to use the word "slush fund", but that is actually what it ends up as. We turn it back. Everything is on the level but it just doesn't look as good with the public as if it were an actual or a more realistic budget is my comment.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President, I rise in satisfaction with the budget. I wanted to make one comment in case somebody missed it in terms of utilization of staff in regard to 60 and 90 day sessions. Because of the large number of committees I serve on, I serve with about half of you or committees and I want the public to know for sure that it is not 60 days and 90 days. I suspect it is more like a couple of hundred days for every member of the Legislature in terms of his time commitment and